



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 March 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports that following the deadly train bombings in Spain, the Department of Homeland Security has issued a bulletin warning U.S. rail and local authorities to remain on the lookout for untended bags and other suspicious activity. (See item [8](#))
- Oster Dow Jones Commodity News reports the Food and Drug Administration, which works to ensure imported food is safe, is inspecting only about one percent of imports and needs to improve, according to the agency's acting commissioner. (See item [20](#))
- United Press International reports the U.S. government has begun a program of stockpiling anthrax vaccine for 25 million people. (See item [24](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 12, International Herald Tribune* — U.S. wrestles its rivals for China nuclear deal. China plans to expand its nuclear power production significantly in the coming decades, and the Bush administration has been courting the country's top officials on behalf of U.S. companies seeking a starring role in that expansion. **The United States is competing with France, Russia and, to a lesser extent, Canada to build four 1,000-megawatt plants that energy executives say will signify China's coming of age as a nuclear energy provider, and offer crucial**

relief to nuclear technology companies starved for new orders in their home countries.

China is the country most likely to have robust growth in nuclear power in the next 10 years, said Ron Sinard, who oversees power plant development for the Nuclear Energy Institute, a Washington organization that represents the U.S. industry. Looking at the market over the next decade, it's probably the biggest piece of the pie.

Source: http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=48355085&ID=cnniw&scategory=Utilities&

2. *March 10, Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)* — **Energy costs hit industry. High energy rates could deal an eventual death blow to much of Louisiana's already ailing petrochemical industry, a vexing dilemma for a state that also has oil and natural gas as a major industry, according to a leading economist.** Long-term benefits of high energy prices put Louisiana oil and natural gas producers in an enviable position, but the pains of the fuel-hungry petrochemical industry will be felt immediately, said Stephen Brown of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. **Laying out his take on the energy sector in the Public Service Commission (PSC) chambers last week, Brown said the world's demand for energy is outpacing available supply in part because of a rebounding U.S. economy and the industrialization of China.** After July 1, tankers bound for the United States must comply with safety regulations implemented as the result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, pushing tanker operation costs even higher, Brown said. (Only one percent of all oil tankers are in compliance.) With oil prices high, domestic natural gas prices are even higher in relation to oil. The cleaner-burning attributes of natural gas have made it the fuel of choice for U.S. power plants. The fuel accounts for half of Louisiana's energy consumption, according to the PSC.

Source: http://cnniw.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=48263622&ID=cnniw&scategory=Chemicals:Industrial&

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Sector

3. *March 12, Macomb Daily (Michigan)* — **Powell asked to look into spills in St. Clair River. Three Michigan lawmakers have asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to intervene in the growing controversy over Canadian chemical spills into the St. Clair River.** In a letter to Powell, U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and Rep. Sander Levin call on the secretary of state to meet with Canadian officials and discuss actions that would halt the toxic spills. "It is important that the Canadian federal and provincial governments understand that these chemical spills simply must stop," the lawmakers wrote. "We request that you raise this issue at the highest levels of the Canadian government and urge them to take concrete steps to prevent further chemical spills ..." The letter sent Wednesday refers to two spills linked to industry located in the so-called "Chemical Valley" near Sarnia: the dumping of approximately 650 pounds of vinyl chloride monomer by Royal Polymer during last August's blackout; and the release of 42,000 gallons of methyl ethyl ketone by Imperial Oil on February 1. The most recent spill forced the temporary shutdown of 10 drinking water plants downriver in Macomb and St. Clair counties.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11114540&BRD=988&PAG=461&dept_id=141269&rft=6

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *March 12, Government Computer News* — **Early GIG-BE rollout sites to get Version 1 of Net-Centric Enterprise Services.** John Stenbit, Department of Defense (DoD) CIO, said Version 1 of the Net-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES) program would be deployed on October 1 at the initial ten sites that will begin rolling out the Global Information Grid-Bandwidth Expansion (GIG-BE) network. **NCES is a DoD initiative that will integrate a common set of information services over the Global Information Grid.** GIG-BE is a ground-based switched optical network that will create a worldwide information backbone supporting 10-Gbps and faster connections. DoD is rolling out GIG-BE worldwide at roughly 100 sites. The network initially will offer OC-192 connectivity.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25251-1.html
5. *March 11, Government Computer News* — **DARPA takes aim at IT sacred cows.** Flaws in the basic building blocks of networking and computer science are hampering reliability, limiting flexibility and creating security vulnerabilities, program managers said this week at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's DARPA Tech conference. Among the IT holy grails that DARPA wants to see revamped are the Internet Protocol, the seven-layer Open Systems Interconnection model -- which defines how devices communicate on today's networks -- and the von Neumann architecture, the basic design style underpinning almost all computers built today. **Many military commanders have been slow to adapt IT for critical tasks because they sense the equipment is unreliable,** said Col. Tim Gibson, a program manager for DARPA's Advanced Technology Office. The packet-based nature of Internet Protocol was not designed for foolproof delivery of messages. The protocol cannot guarantee delivery of e-mail, for instance. **Another limitation with the IP approach is the inability to dynamically build networks. The military wants to quickly set up ad hoc networks.** As a result, DARPA wants to fund development of new protocols or enhancements to the existing IP that will allow nodes, such as computers, to automatically sign on to networks in their vicinity.
Source: <http://fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0308/web-jfcom-03-11-04.asp>

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *March 12, TechWeb News* — **FTC warns of new phishing scam.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Thursday, March 11, warned of a new "phishing" scam that tries to trick consumers into giving up credit card information by posing as mail from regulations.gov, the government Web site where citizens comment on federal rule-making. The phishing e-mails typically have subject headings of "Official information" or "Urgent information to all credit card holders!" and claim that recent changes in the law require that Internet users identify themselves to the federal government to "create a secure and safer Internet community." **Like other phishing scams, the e-mail includes a link to a bogus Website, which in this case closely resembles regulations.gov.** Once there, users are asked to enter private and personal

financial information, including credit card numbers. Phishing expeditions can be a financial windfall for attackers, since **some analysts' estimates put the success rate of such bogus e-mails at about 1 in every 20 recipients.**

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB20040312S0005>

7. *March 12, Gulf News (United Arab Emirates)* — **Arab countries taken off list of money launderers.** Arab countries have been taken off the Financial Action Task Force's list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories after they took a series of measures to combat money laundering and terrorist funding following intense pressure by the U.S. and other organizations. But **although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is satisfied with the steps taken and efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist funding, it will continue to monitor this region and provide technical and other assistance on an ongoing basis, officials said** after the conclusion of a course on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The three-day course organized by the Economic Policy Institute of the Arab Monetary Fund was attended by 39 officials from 19 Arab countries. The course focussed on all issues relating to anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, the obligations in terms of conventions and what arises from the conventions, the requirements in the laws and how to implement them, the framework and the role of the compliance machinery such as bank inspectors, Financial Intelligence Units and others.

Source: <http://www.gulfnews.com/Articles/news.asp?ArticleID=113517>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

8. *March 14, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **U.S. rails warned to be on alert. Following the deadly train bombings in Spain, the Department of Homeland Security issued a bulletin on Friday, March 12, warning U.S. rail and local authorities to remain on the lookout for untended bags and other suspicious activity. Asa Hutchinson, the department's undersecretary for transportation and borders, said federal officials were urging local transit agencies to increase the number of police officers at stations, deploy more explosive detection teams and, in some cases, put law enforcement officers on trains.** Passengers should also expect public announcements alerting them to remain vigilant. "We can't stop terrorism. All we can do is reduce the risks to levels that people can accept," said Anthony Cordesman, a national security analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank. In late January, the FBI issued a bulletin to local law enforcement warning that terrorists remained interested in striking U.S. rail lines, which could result in a "substantial loss of life." Still, rail security has received scant attention from the federal government after the September 11, 2001, attacks. While some \$12 billion has been spent to shore up airline security, the Department of Homeland Security has handed out only \$115 million in domestic preparedness grants to local transit and rail agencies since May 2003. Source: http://cnni.w.yellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=48410631&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Rail&

9. *March 14, International Herald Tribune* — **Europe steps up security intelligence for rail networks.** Senior European intelligence and security officials in recent months had expressed

increasing concern that terrorists would target the still relatively open rail networks of a region that depends heavily on passenger rail transport. **In the aftermath of the terrorist bombings Thursday in Madrid, European leaders and security officials were tightening security at train and subway stations across the region, stepping up police patrols, bomb detection measures and electronic surveillance. Passenger rail traffic in Europe is more than 12 times the level in the United States, according to European Union figures, and is only surpassed in passenger miles by China and Japan.** France on Friday deployed nearly 500 soldiers to key transportation hubs to beef up local security, especially on the high-speed rail lines from Paris to Lyon and Marseilles. French officials also placed restrictions on private aviation clubs and stepped up chlorination of national water supplies, all part of an elevated alert status ordered by President Jacques Chirac, a spokesman for the National Police said.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=48438408&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Mass+Transit&

10. *March 13, Professional Safety – American Society of Safety Engineers* — **DOT selects members for Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee.** Nine individuals representing government and industry interests in pipeline safety were selected by U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Norman Mineta to serve on the department's Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee. **The committee provides DOT with a peer review of proposed pipeline safety regulations to ensure the technical feasibility, reasonableness, cost effectiveness and practicability of the regulations of DOT's Office of Pipeline Safety.** The committee also serves as a public sounding board for pipeline safety issues. "Public participation in pipeline safety is important to help ensure that our regulations will achieve the highest level of safety while enabling this infrastructure to service vital needs of our economy and citizens," says Acting RSPA Administrator Samuel Bonasso. The committee is composed of 15 members appointed to serve three-year terms, with membership equally divided among representatives from government, industry and the general public.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnniw/Story.nsp?story_id=48387152&ID=cnniw&scategory=Transportation:Regulations&

11. *March 12, New York Times* — **U.S. rail agencies tighten security after blasts. Officials in the United States tightened security at railroads today, March 12, as a precaution after 10 bombs ripped through commuter trains in Spain Thursday, killing nearly 200 people and wounding more than one thousand in rush-hour attacks some Spaniards called their country's "9/11."** While some officials in the United States said today they knew of no specific threats against American targets, the shock waves from the bomb blasts in Madrid continued to reverberate across the Atlantic. Thousands of miles of train tracks crisscross the United States, feeding millions of commuters into major cities every day. **Tom Kelly, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates public transportation in the New York area, said uniformed forces and canine patrols were increased at Grand Central and Penn stations, as well as in other "sensitive security areas" like elevated rail lines.** The Chicago Transit Authority, which oversees more than 220 miles of subway and elevated rail tracks as well as 2,273 miles of bus routes serving Chicago and 40 suburbs, is stepping up a security tactic borrowed from the New York system, said a spokesperson, Noelle Gaffney.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/12/national/12CND-TRAI.html>

12. *March 12, Congress Daily* — **GAO to probe cargo security initiatives. Spurred by the security concerns of a bipartisan group of lawmakers, the General Accounting Office (GAO) has launched an investigation into the effectiveness of two initiatives aimed at targeting suspicious overseas cargo before it reaches U.S. ports.** The investigation comes as the Homeland Security Department is asking Congress to approve a \$25 million increase for the Container Security Initiative, which is designed to screen U.S.-bound cargo in foreign ports, and \$15.2 million more for the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program, which seeks to help importers and ocean freight companies improve security. The delegation discovered a low percentage of containers were actually inspected, according to one participant on the trip. At Hamburg, U.S. Customs personnel were miles away from the port and their foreign counterparts. Because the CSI program is voluntary, foreign port inspectors can refuse requests by Customs officials for further scrutiny of suspicious freight containers, this source said.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/031204cdam1.htm>

13. *March 12, Department of Transportation* — **New index shows transportation output reaching historic highs, results indicate future growth for U.S. economy.** On March 10, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta released the new Transportation Services Index (TSI) noting that the measure shows U.S. transportation output at an historic high. The results in the new monthly measure are assumed to serve as a leading indicator of future growth for the economy. The new data show that the TSI increased by one percent from November to December of 2003 to reach an all-time peak of 118.5. TSI tracks changes from 1996, meaning that transportation services in December rose 18.5 percent from 1996. December's increase was the fourth consecutive increase in the new monthly index. **The Transportation Services Index is a new monthly economic indicator intended to measure the performance of the economy as reflected in the movement of freight and passengers.** The overall TSI consists of two measures, freight and passenger. The freight measure increased 2.9 percent from November to December 2003 to reach a record high of 120.2. The passenger measure decreased 3.6 percent from November to December 2003 to 114.4, after seven consecutive months of increases. Historically, the freight measure has served as a leading indicator for predicting economic growth.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot2704.htm>

14. *March 12, The Trucker* — **Truckers asked to be vigilant around rail facilities following Madrid blasts.** The American Trucking Associations ran a small but ominous security warning March 11 on its Web site asking truckers to be vigilant around commercial and commuter rail facilities following the bombings at Madrid train stations that left at nearly 200 persons dead. Hours later, al Qaeda allegedly had claimed responsibility for the mass killings, Fox News and other sources reported. U.S. intelligence officials from the outset claimed the bombings had all the earmarks of al Qaeda as well as ETA.

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03_04/0312_madrid_bombing.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

15. *March 12, Associated Press* — **Livestock risk management.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently hired a Montana risk management consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study of a federally subsidized livestock insurance program, similar to federal crop insurance. After learning of a possible pilot program in Alabama, Georgia, and Maryland, officials with Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., an industry trade group, persuaded federal officials to include Delaware and Virginia. Meetings have been held in Delaware and the other states to assess grower concerns and interest, and the consulting firm, Watts and Associates, is scheduled to deliver a preliminary report to the USDA by October. **In addition to adult layers and broilers, the proposed insurance program would include commercial dairies and sheep.**

Source: http://www.accessnorthga.com/news/ap_newfullstory.asp?ID=337_19

16. *March 12, Iowa Ag Connection* — **Grant to improve biosecurity of seeds.** Iowa State University is the lead institution on a \$900,000 federal grant to develop new ways to prevent the spread of diseases carried by seeds. The four-year project, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will develop new techniques to detect seedborne pathogens, as well as training diagnosticians in using new methods. "Our country has done a good job in keeping pathogens out of the system. But after September 11, our commitment to tighter security revealed that seedborne diseases could be a potential weak link," said Manjit Misra, director of the Seed Science Center and the Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products. "In collaboration with our research partners at the University of Georgia and Clemson University, we hope this project will strengthen the protection of American agriculture and the food supply," said Misra. **"Seeds are an internationally traded commodity,"** said Denis McGee, a professor of plant pathology. **"They can carry diseases around the world if they aren't closely monitored."**

Source: http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=218&yr=20_04

17. *March 12, Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization* — **Discovery solves rust problem.** The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), an Australian research agency, has discovered a gene that is the Achilles heel of rust, a common disease of plants, which could save millions in breeding rust resistant plants and avert losses in food production. "You can breed rust resistant plants, but this resistance only works when the rust fungus contains the gene we found, the avirulence gene," says CSIRO researcher Peter Dodds. **"The avirulence gene effectively labels the rust as an intruder so that the plant can turn on its rust resistance defense mechanisms to prevent the rust infection,"** says Dodds. Rusts constantly adapt to new rust resistant plant varieties by evolving into new strains. Rusts do this by changing their avirulence genes to evade the plant's defenses. Scientists are continually on the look out for new rust resistance in plants to keep up with the new rust strains that keep evolving, but their options are diminishing.

Source: http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/agricultural_sciences/report-26832.html

18.

March 11, PR Newswire — **FAO: Do not restock flocks too quickly. Countries affected by the deadly avian influenza virus H5N1 should not restock their flocks too quickly to avoid the disease flaring up again, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned Thursday, March 11.** Two months after the outbreak of the epidemic some countries are already planning to declare selected zones disease-free and to restock decimated flocks, FAO said. "In the battle against the disease, there are definitely some improvements. But we fear that the virus may continue to circulate in the environment even without an outbreak or any clinical signs in animals," said Joseph Domenech, chief of the Animal Health Service. "Appropriate precautionary measures have to be put in place to be absolutely sure that infected zones are free from infection and will remain free," he added. If countries want to resume exports they have to prove that they are free from avian influenza. Independent international experts will verify their status.

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=24039

19. *March 11, Associated Press* — **Plant disease found for first time in Southern California. The plant disease sudden oak death that has killed trees along California's north and central coasts was spotted for the first time in Southern California, at Monrovia Nursery in Azusa, and infected camellia plants.** Officials said they're trying to determine the scope and severity of the infestation. The disease, which is caused by a fungus-like pathogen, prefers moist, cool coastal climates, so it comes at a surprise that the disease was found in Los Angeles County. **The disease has killed tens of thousands of California oaks since the pathogen was first discovered in 1995.** Scientists are still learning about the pathogen, which is related to the same type of organism believed to have caused the Irish potato famine in the mid-19th century. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20040311-0427-ca-suddenoakdeath.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

20. *March 12, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **FDA says U.S. must inspect more food imports. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which works to ensure imported food is safe, is inspecting only about one percent of imports and needs to improve, according to the agency's acting commissioner.** The FDA is overwhelmed by imports, which have increased fivefold since 1994, said Lester Crawford, the acting commissioner. "It's difficult for us, and we are missing the mark, but we pledge to do better," Crawford told a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on agriculture Thursday, March 11. **Persons in the U.S. eat on average about 2,000 pounds of imported food a year, 11 percent of everything they eat.** The FDA has added 600 food inspectors under the Bioterrorism Act of 2002, and this should help, Crawford told reporters. The law requires exporters to give the U.S. advance notice of shipments. And the FDA is using the law to give priority to inspections of shipments that could have higher risk of carrying disease, he said. Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24055

21. *March 12, Sacramento Bee* — **California looks to test beef. Worried that a foreign embargo on U.S. beef will ruin the state's cattle industry, state lawmakers may soon introduce legislation to make California the first state to set broader and faster testing for mad cow disease.** More than 50 countries have banned U.S. beef since a mad cow case was found in

Washington state, lopping \$3.86 billion in annual export sales from the \$40 billion U.S. beef industry, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which conducts limited testing, doesn't allow anyone else to test for the fatal brain-wasting disease in cattle, but its policy is being tested by a Kansas slaughterhouse that plans to check its cattle with the same techniques used in Europe and Japan. **Currently, USDA policy limits definitive mad cow testing to its Iowa facility, where the process can take up to two weeks. The California plan would use rapid tests that return results within a few hours.** Any positive results would be sent to Iowa for confirmation.

Source: http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/8491725p-942061_7c.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

22. *March 11, Associated Press* — **City may have permanent water restrictions. Water restrictions could become an everyday reality for Cheyenne, WY, residents if a proposed water conservation plan is approved.** The plan is scheduled to take effect May 1 if approved by the City Council and Board of Public Utilities, which will consider the measure on March 15. Current water restrictions end April 30. **Under the plan, restrictions would be set each year according to water supply, snowpack, runoff, anticipated consumption, and reservoir storage.** Residents would be asked to conserve according to the drought level. The lowest designation would require five to 10 percent in water savings, while the extreme drought level would mandate 50 to 60 percent.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2004/03/11/news/wyoming/1845a1a802851d3887256e5400672bab.txt>

23. *March 10, Reuters* — **Iraq hopes constitution brings investment in water.** Iraq's crippled fresh water supply could improve now that a new constitution reassures investors about political risk, its public works minister said March 10. **Only 60 percent of Iraqis had access to fresh water before the war last year. Despite reconstruction efforts, only 50 percent have fresh water now, Nesreen Barwari told a news conference in London.** "I should think that with the signing of the transitional constitutional law, more funding should flow, more interest by the private sector should come and there will be more engagement with the rest of the world in Iraqi infrastructure," the Iraqi minister said. **Iraq wants seven billion dollars to make safe drinking water available to all and more than triple the share of the population with proper sewage systems, now only nine percent.** Barwari estimated the project would take two to three years.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=4540706>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

24. *March 12, United Press International* — **U.S. to stockpile anthrax vaccine.** The U.S. government has begun a program of stockpiling anthrax vaccine for 25 million people, the Washington Post reported Friday, March 12. Two biotechnology companies in California and

Britain, have won contracts to make vaccine sufficient to inoculate two million people, according to bidding documents, and are likely to bid soon on larger contracts. **Until now, there was little commercial incentive for companies to develop a modern anthrax vaccine. But the administration's plan will change that as it builds a reserve big enough to immunize everyone in the New York and Washington metropolitan areas, or in any other cities targeted in an anthrax attack.** Government scientists are still discussing how the anthrax vaccine might be used, and how it compares with other drugs under development, such as artificial antibodies given over the short term to prevent or treat anthrax infection.

Source: http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20040312-065710-8707_r.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

25. *March 12, Ka Leo O (Hawaii)* — **Hawaii's security needs addressed.** Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Tom Ridge used his brief visit in Hawaii last week to discuss the state's security concerns. Ridge was joined by Gov. Linda Lingle at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Alii Tower to discuss the state's unique needs. Ridge said, as far as facilitating travelers at the airports in Hawaii, they have made progress, but there are still some delays at the airports that need to be examined. Lingle said that the state wants to be designated as an "Approved Destination Site" status for tourists from China since many Chinese tourists face difficulties in obtaining visas. Some also have to travel long distances to apply for one and be turned down because of changing U.S. visa policies.

Source: http://www.kaleo.org/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/03/08/404bf838_1d587

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

26. *March 15, Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)* — **Massacre in Madrid gives Athens a touch of the jitters. The Madrid bombings have triggered a review of security for the Athens Olympics in August, the International Olympic Committee president, Dr. Jacques Rogge, said at the weekend — one day after Greece called in NATO to help guard the Games.** Dr. Rogge said that all aspects of security would be looked at. He went to Athens to meet Greece's new Prime Minister, Costas Karamanlis, who has taken personal control of preparations for the Games since his election a week ago. "What happened in Madrid will be analysed by our experts," Dr. Rogge said. **On the eve of his visit, Greece announced it had called in NATO to help with sea and air patrols and guard against nuclear, chemical or biological attacks.** Greece is spending three times as much on security as Sydney did in 2000. A secret Olympics security operation involving several hundred American troops began on Wednesday. As part of its \$1 billion security plan, Greece has set up a seven-nation advisory group, comprising Britain, the US, Israel, Australia, Spain, France and Germany. Russia and Turkey are helping too. Greece shares long land borders with Balkan neighbours and seas with Muslim Turkey, which makes it a security nightmare.

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/03/14/1079199096286.html>

27. *March 12, Transportation Security Administration* — **Twelve new explosives detection canine teams join TSA.** Twelve new teams joined the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program following graduation today, March 12, at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The graduates will report for duty at: Los Angeles International Airport, Sacramento International Airport, San Diego International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Midway Airport, Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport; Philadelphia International Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. "With today's graduation we will have 299 teams in place," said Dave Kontny, Director of the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program. **Because canine teams combine excellent mobility with reliable detection rates, their use has evolved to include searching areas in response to bomb threats associated with airport terminals and aircraft, luggage, cargo and vehicles, as well as serving as a proven deterrent to would-be terrorists or criminals.** Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198.00900b7>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information and Telecommunications Sector

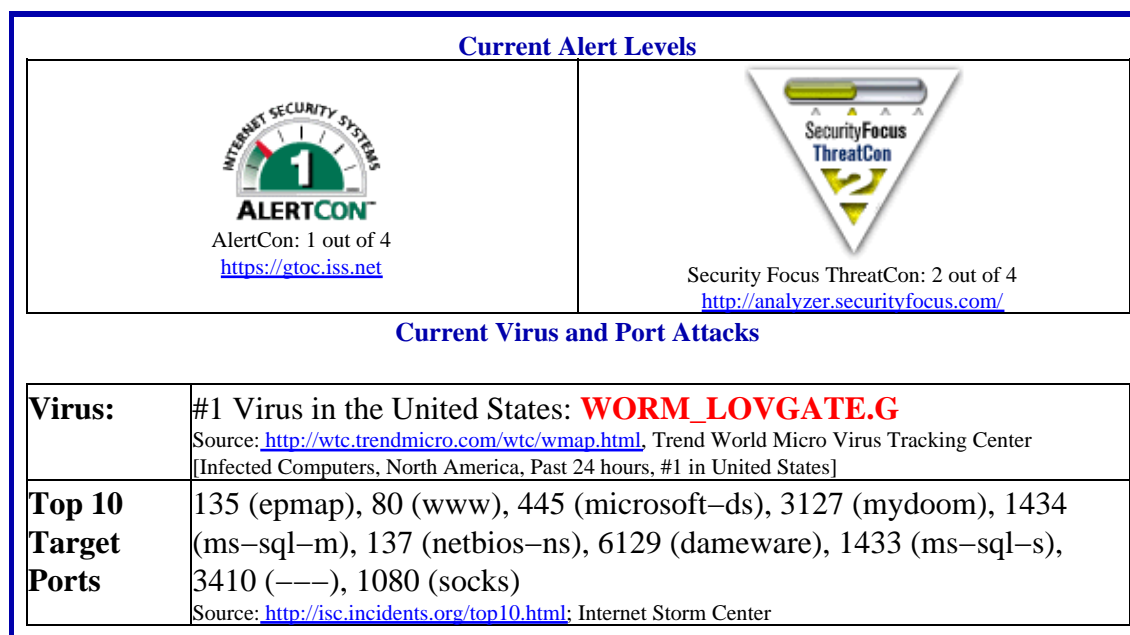
28. *March 14, PC World* — **Outage hits Hotmail, MSN Messenger. Internal technical problems at Microsoft closed down access for many MSN Messenger and Hotmail users, as well as some MSN Internet Access customers, for about eight hours Friday, March 12.** Microsoft started receiving reports of problems with its instant messaging, Web based e-mail and dial-up Internet services at about 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time Friday, a company spokesperson says. The issue was identified at around 3 p.m. and solved an hour and a half later, she adds. "The outage was pretty significant in terms of the number of customers it affected, but by now the services should be up and running for everybody," the Microsoft spokesperson confirmed late on Friday afternoon. "It was a completely internal issue," the spokesperson says. The problem had nothing to do with hackers or the security patch for MSN Messenger that Microsoft released earlier this week, she adds. Microsoft did not disclose how many customers were unable to connect to those services in the interim. Service complaints came mostly from the U.S. and Canada, but users outside of North America may also have been affected, the spokesperson says. Users who were already connected to the services were for the most part able to continue using them, the issue primarily affected new log-ons, she says. Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,115196,00.asp>

29. *March 11, Washington Post* — **FCC sets sights on mobile phone spam.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today took its first steps toward banning spam that targets mobile phones and other wireless devices. **The FCC said it will ask the public to submit comments on the best ways to prevent the growth of mobile phone spam, a problem that is still uncommon in the United States** though experts agree that it—along with instant messaging spam—is getting worse. The commission is required to develop the rules because of a recently enacted federal law that tries to stop the expanding spam problem. Signed into law by President Bush last December, the Can-Spam Act mostly targets e-mail spam but recognizes that cellphones and other wireless devices are prime targets for unsolicited advertising. The law

gives the FCC less than a year to draft rules to allow consumers to prevent spammers from contacting them on their wireless devices. The commission also is seeking public comment on whether commercial messages should be clearly labeled and whether mobile phone service providers have to get authorization from their customers before sending them commercial messages.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51194-2004Mar 11.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

30. *March 14, CNN* — Palestinian suicide bombers kill seven in Israel. Seven people were killed and 20 others were wounded Sunday, March 14, in two suicide bombing attacks in the Israeli port city of Ashdod, Israeli police said. News of the attacks was immediately followed by an announcement from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office that Tuesday's face-to-face talks between Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei have been canceled. **Ashdod, about 18 miles (30 kilometers) south of Tel Aviv, is a well-trafficked and heavily guarded port used for Israeli trade and as a popular recreation spot.** One blast took place inside the port, police said, and the other just outside the port. The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades — a military offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement — have claimed joint responsibility for the attacks. Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and Hamas have been labeled by the U.S. State Department as terrorist organizations.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/03/14/mideast/index.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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